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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 405
By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Ms. Alice Gwin Henry
for her many valuable contributions to culture
and education in the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate and fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those sterling citizens who, through their hard work, expertise, and dedication, have pieced together the enduring fabrics that comprise the grand tapestry of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, throughout its illustrious history, Tennessee has been blessed with countless exemplary citizens who have made significant contributions in the areas of commerce, industry, agriculture, manufacturing, education, research, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, it is vital for our continued growth and prosperity to continually expand, diligently preserve, and successfully recognize the expression of Tennessee's culture through visual art; and

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WHEREAS, numerous dedicated and exemplary artists of the state devote their extraordinary talent to expanding Tennessee's interests, facilitating our own culture, and heralding their admiration and respect of fellow Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, one celebrated Tennessean who has transcended all others with her eloquent brush-strokes is Alice Gwin Henry, the talented artist who can take credit for such beautiful creations as "Memphis Spring," "Teddy Bear," "Knights in Blue," and many other wonderful works of art; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Henry has articulately expressed the true spirit of Tennessee by means of her outstanding talent and her professional accomplishments in the creation of visual art, particularly with her crowning achievement, "My Homeland Tennessee"; and

WHEREAS, Alice Henry exquisitely painted "My Homeland Tennessee" in honor of this great state's Bicentennial; this beautiful painting has been utilized in classrooms as a visual aid to teach children about the importance of education, their place in history and their dreams for the future; and

WHEREAS, after seeing the incredible masterpiece, the Memphis and Shelby County Bicentennial Committee approved and endorsed the painting as a Bicentennial Project; it was later designated as the official bicentennial painting of the State of Tennessee by the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Henry traveled with the Bicentennial Train, "The Spirit of Tennessee," throughout the state, displaying her wonderful painting and entertaining children, their teachers and parents with stories about the first settlers, the physical terrain and wildlife of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, at each stop, Ms. Henry presented libraries, schools, chambers of commerce, mayors, and dignitaries with a lithograph print of "My Homeland Tennessee", which

transported citizens back two centuries in time when they viewed the inspirational work of art; and

WHEREAS, “My Homeland Tennessee” is an exceptional work of art that summarizes the rich 200-year history of our great state since its founding in 1796; it includes numerous state symbols, including the State Capitol, a tobacco and cotton farm, St. Jude Children’s Hospital, TVA/Norris Dam, the Cherokee alphabet, “Tanasie,” (the Indian spelling for Tennessee), and the official symbols and panoramic scenes that can be seen throughout the three grand divisions of our state; and

WHEREAS, because of its inspiring representation of the Volunteer State’s symbols, history, and geography, “My Homeland Tennessee” is a great learning tool for Tennessee’s children; and

WHEREAS, Alice Henry is one of an elite few artists in the United States to create a state bicentennial painting; and

WHEREAS, she credits her exceptional work as a God-given ability; her devout, religious faith is beautifully illustrated throughout her artistic impressions, as evidenced in her bicentennial painting, “My Homeland Tennessee”; emphasis is directed to the center of the painting where a cross is draped by dogwood and framed by oak leaves; and

WHEREAS, this internationally acclaimed, award-winning artist has been chosen each summer as one of one-hundred fifty juried artists from around the world to show her outstanding collection in the “Art-A-Fair” exhibition at Laguna Beach, California; and

WHEREAS, at exhibitions, Alice Henry acts as an ambassador for the Volunteer State, answering questions and graciously extending invitations to others to come and visit the state that she so beautifully depicts in many of her masterpieces; and

WHEREAS, it is her genuine warmth and ability to touch people through her artistic abilities that make her a favorite at many art shows across the country; and

WHEREAS, although a Memphis native, Ms. Henry resides in the great city of Raleigh with her loving husband, Dale, who is retired from the U.S. Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Henry's amazing ability to touch the hearts of Tennesseans stems from her love for the history, landscape, and culture of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it is rare when a person of Alice Henry's stature walks among us, her brilliance shines down on us, touching people with her geniality and artistic talent; and

WHEREAS, Alice Henry is an artist of singular skills and she is most assuredly deserving of special praise, honor, and commendation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Ms. Alice Gwin Henry for her lifetime of dedicated service to culture and education in the State of Tennessee, salute her meritorious service to the Bicentennial Celebration, and wish her every continued success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.